

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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UNCLAS MUSCAT 0536

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MORG MU UK
SUBJECT: JOINT STAFF MILITARY ORGANIZATION IS INSTITUTED

REF: 76 MUSCAT 1061

1. OMAN'S PLANNED NEW MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE CAME INTO EFFECT ON SCHEDULE APRIL 1. BRIGADIER PETER THWAITES, RETIRED BRITISH ARMY OFFICER, ASSUMED TITLE "CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT STAFF SAF." THWAITES HAS STAFF OF 3 MEN, 1 FROM EACH SERVICE, BUT THERE IS NO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. (EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT LT. COL. SALIM AL-GHAZALI WOULD FILL DEPUTY SLOT HAVE PROVEN FALSE; GHAZALI JOINED JORDAN ARAB ARMY SENIOR TRAINING COURSE IN DECEMBER 1976 AND IT IS UNDECIDED WHAT POST HE WILL FILL ON RETURN OMAN IN LATE 77.) BRIG. THWAITES ALSO HAS TITLE "HIS MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVE SAF."

2. THREE SERVICES ARE COMMANDED BY THE FOLLOWING:

A. SOLF (SULTAN OF OMAN'S LAND FORCES) - MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH PERKINS, WHO UNTIL APRIL 1 WAS COMMANDER SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES. PERKINS TOD ON SECONDMENT FROM BRITISH ARMY ENDS APRIL 21, AND REPLACEMENT WILL BE SECONDED MAJOR GENERAL DAVID THE O'MORCHOE (PRONOUNCED THE OMOORA).
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B. SOAF (SULTAN OF OMAN'S AIR FORCE) - AIR COMMODORE ERIC BENNETT, BRITISH CONTRACT OFFICER WHO HAS HEADED SOAF SINCE 1974.

C. SON (SULTAN OF OMAN'S NAVY) - COMMODORE HARRY MUCKLOW, SECONDED FROM ROYAL NAVY, WHO ASSUMED THIS SLOT IN SUMMER 1976.

3. MEANWHILE ALL SERVICES ARE WORKING INTO THE NEW PATTERN OF ALLOCATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR VARIOUS LOGISTICAL MATTERS SO THAT MOST SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS SUCH AS EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION, POSTAL SERVICE, AND OTHERS WILL HENCEFORTH BE HANDLED EITHER BY SOLF OR SOAF FOR ALL THREE SERVICES IN ORDER ECONOMIZE AND AVOID DUPLICATION. SON IS EXEMPT FROM ASSUMING ANY SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES DUE TO ITS SMALL PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT.

4. WE PLAN APPROPRIATE COMMENTS ON HOW NEW SYSTEM WILL LIKELY WORK IN PRACTICE A BIT LATER, AFTER SAF GAINS SOME EXPERIENCE WITH NEW FRAMEWORK AND WE HAVE SOME BASIS FOR JUDGING IT.
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